TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST, 2001

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Bud Hughes K4CWG

Paul, K4WPW donated to the radio club as a fund raising gift, a Collins 75A1 receiver. This radio was made just after WWII around 1946. Being a vintage radio, Wayne W4GBW suggested it be placed on the Internet website "Reflectors". Immediately upon this radio being listed on the website there were a dozen or so bids from all over the country from interested buyers. The highest bidder was a ham located in the town of The Rock, Georgia. After shipping the club treasury was the recipient of almost $400.00. Paul, your club appreciates your generous gift.

The Thursday night "eating meeting" is doing just fine. But with the closing of Morrison's we are forced to find another place to have the evening meal.

If you have any suggestions for a place for the club to meet for the Thursday dinner, please let Sherry know.

Beginning August 13 there will be a five (5) week class for the Technician class amateur radio license. The classes will be 2 hours each on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7 to 9 PM. The classes will be held at the Titusville Police Station in the Training Room. There is a fee of $25.00 for this class. The fee includes the book NOW YOU ARE TALKING and the fee for the exam which is given at the end of the class on Wednesday, September 12. 73s

YO! ALL YOU MOSQUITOES OUT THERE!

Walt Hart W1IIA is getting lonesome on Wednesday nights - almost alone on 28.333. He wants you all to flex your stingers and check into the Mosquito Net. Please be good mosquitoes and keep him company on 28.333 on Wednesday nights at 1900 Hr.

MELBOURNE HAMFEST

We have a number of $5.00 tickets for the PCARS Melbourne hamfest to be held on September 8. These will be available at the August club meeting. Also, TARC has tables 33 and 34 reserved for club members. REMEMBER: If you put items on the club table and they do not sell, please pick them up after the hamfest.

Please have exact change to purchase tickets at the August meeting. Thanks Clyde K4EOS

ADMIT ONE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

AUG. 4 KF4FQW DUANE POCOCK
AUG. 5 KC4VMQ DONNA CLARK
AUG. 7 N1OGE BERTHA BONARDI
AUG. 7 KF4SEK NICHOLAS GRAY
AUG. 15 KF4VRQ MARVIN THORPE
AUG. 16 N2JY JUDY SMITH
AUG. 16 W4EPU PIKE ABELL
AUG. 16 KA9IFK HELEN KNOPP
AUG. 17 N9EZV KEN TENDICK
AUG. 18 KE4BBH JIM PREVATT
AUG. 20 KG4DSG MIKE WOLFORD
AUG. 20 W4LOV MIKE HENSLEY
AUG. 22 KF4PGU BILL CANFIELD
AUG. 24 W2SDB BILL EPPLEY
AUG. 28 K0RPM RON MORGAN
AUG. 28 KV4BY CLARENCE BAUER
AUG. 29 KE4HOE FRED HADDAD
AUG. 31 KF4DTC ABBIE MARSDEN

EDITORIAL
By Clyde Lee K4EOS

Where is the TARC 146.775 repeater? Well, it's in beautiful North Hog Valley! Why do they call it Hog Valley? I don't know, but I bet some club member could tell me.

The fires which raged through the North end of the county in 1998 brought forth the realization that there was a real need for a repeater in that part of the county.

Enter Archie WN3DHI and Ken KD4HNW. Through the efforts of these two members the preparations to install a repeater in Hog Valley has made tremendous progress. The repeater site belongs to Ken. There is a 110 foot tower installed which will provide a good signal to all parts of the North end of this county as well as Southern Volusia county. A 10x10 foot concrete building to house the repeater and serve as a storm shelter has been constructed. The site is located in a remote area with the vegetation cut back and is fenced in. There are horses and possibly other animals within the enclosure. There is a beautiful lake on the property. Running water, electricity and toilet facilities have been put in place.

Contributors to the effort to get the North repeater up and going include Ken KD4HNW, Archie WN3DHI, John KE4ZPA, Tom WA4QJK, Mike KG4DSG, Stephanie K4MVO, Hank AA4HP, Nathan K0TBC, Ken KB0OQJ, Nick KF4SEK, Bud K4CWG, Sherry KU4ZO and Les K4SJC.

There are others who contributed, and their toil and sweat is appreciated. We apologize to any member who helped and has not been mentioned.

In summation we have a building with electricity available, a nice tower and antenna installed. Now all we need is the repeater installed. I have a purely selfish reason for wanting to see the repeater completed. I could communicate with Titusville from South Volusia County (I am there weekends). I am sure other members living North of Titusville would also like to see the repeater up and running.

THE DOCTOR IS IN
From 8/01 QST

Q: I bought (at an on-line auction) a receiver built in the 60s. When it arrived it reeked of cigarette smoke. I tried to clean the radio, going as far as using gasoline to scrub the chassis. That didn't work. How can I get rid of the cigarette residue?

A: That can be a tough nut to crack. Here's what I did about 10 years ago with two Yaesu units of 1980 vintage - hybrid units with plug-in boards - that I had acquired for my collection.

First I disassembled the units as much as I could. I removed all cabinet panels. I removed all the knobs from the front panel and removed all the tubes (driver and final tubes. I then removed all the plug-in/screw-down modules/boards. No wiring was disturbed.

The cabinet sheet metal, the knobs and the tubes were washed in the kitchen sink. I placed them in a plastic tub filled with Fantastic, 409 or a similar strong household product and individually scrubbed with a discarded toothbrush. The components were rinsed, dried with paper towels and set aside. I found that the smell and grunge on these parts were completely gone. Now for the guts of the radio.

From my experience in electronic manufacturing I knew I wanted a good cleaning solvent that would leave no residue. At a local electronics parts distributor I found a product in spray-can form called Freon TF Cleaning Solvent. It was somewhat expensive, about $10.00 per can as I remember, but I was cleaning a $400 vintage investment so I didn't mind. Although it came in a fairly large can (a little larger than your average spray paint size), I figured I would need more than one can to do the job. I ended up needing about 1-1/2 cans per radio. I stress that whatever you use must leave absolutely no residue.

Working in a well ventilated area (I worked in the garage with the door open and a cross draft to the garage door), I took each PC board, held it vertically, and sprayed it with copious amounts of the product until it was freely running and dripping off the board. Quickly, before it evaporated, I scrubbed it using the toothbrush - which was now thoroughly dry from the previous use (absolutely no water). I did this 2 or 3 times for each board. I propped up the boards on a dry surface and directed a fan at them (the component side) to make sure all nooks and crannies were perfectly dry.

Next came the chassis. I performed the same procedure as with the boards, making sure to get all corners. It's best to do this operation with the surfaces vertical so that the solvent drips off the chassis. I worked on one area at a time, starting at the top and working toward the bottom. (both sides of the chassis - transformers, too) Again, I scrubbed with the toothbrush while it was still wet (this stuff evaporates in seconds). When done, I placed the chassis in front of a fan for several hours to make sure it was completely dry.

When everything was thoroughly dry, I placed the chassis and the boards in a cardboard box with some crumpled newspaper and several dryer sheets, closed the box and left it for about a week. The rig came out smelling like a proverbial rose!

You might contact the solvent manufacturer, which is still in business, for information on current, environmentally safe, products. I saw a product on their Web page called Safe zone that might be "green," yet suitable.

Contact:

Miller-Stephenson, George Washington Hwy., Danbury, CT 06810. 203-743-4447

Web site: www.miller-stephenson.com/main.htm

ARRL ASKS FCC TO INVESTIGATE LONG-RANGE CORDLESS TELEPHONE SALES
From 8/1/01 QST

The ARRL has asked the FCC to investigate and "take appropriate action" against several companies it alleges have been marketing so-called "long-range cordless telephones" via the Internet. The ARRL took the action in the wake of an interference complaint and numerous reports from the amateur community about sales of the devices, some operating on amateur VHF and UHF frequencies.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said the League was seeking the FCC probe because the apparently uncertificated devices operate on amateur bands and are capable of interfering with amateur communication. He also noted that the devices are not likely to meet maximum permissible exposure levels for RF. "ARRL has not been able to locate any FCC certification for these devices and, based on the advertised frequency bands and ranges, it is believed that none of these devices could be certificated, or legally marketed or sold, under FCC rules," Imlay wrote. The League said some of the companies may be selling similar wireless products that may operate on amateur or restricted bands.

The letter was addressed to FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief David Solomon as well as to Raymond LaForge of the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology's Equipment Authorization division and to FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth.

Imlay said the ARRL also is looking into the marketing of products such as 434-MHz video surveillance equipment and other "apparently non-certificated devices" that use amateur frequencies but are being marketed in the US to nonamateurs.

The ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, said he's received at least one report of actual harmful interference from a long-range cordless telephone to amateur communication. The amateur reporting it tracked the telephone to the home of a neighbor, who said he'd bought the device on e-Bay.

Hare said some long-range devices are legally certificated to operate on the 900 MHz or 2450 MHz Part 15 bands. Hare invited reports of unlicensed devices causing actual harmful interference to Amateur Radio operation to rfi@arrl.org

AMATEUR RADIO HELPS SAVE FOUR LIVES
From QRZ.COM

JUNEAU, AK, Jul 25, 2001. Just four weeks after exercising their emergency communications skills during ARRL Field Day, members of the Northern Southeast Amateur Radio Emergency Services and Juneau Amateur Radio Club put those skills to use to help to save a fellow ham operator and several companions.

On July 22, Mark Griffith, KL0MO, was rafting down the Herbert Glacier River with three friends when their raft was severely damaged. The group was stranded on a small island in the middle of the raging river. There had been 2.4 inches of rain in the preceding 24 hours, and the river was running extremely fast.

At 7:36 that evening, Griffith used the phone patch feature of the KL7PF repeater at Lena Point to call 911. The 911 operator - who also happened to be the ARES Emergency Coordinator - obtained information from Griffith, and a time schedule was arranged for him to call back to get additional information while search-and-rescue personnel were alerted.

In the meantime, Bob Dewey, WL7QC, heard Griffith's transmission and set out for the trailhead to meet with the rescue personnel. Once there, Dewey worked alongside the search-and-rescue incident commander and was able to contact Griffith on simplex, providing direct contact with rescue personnel.

The rescue was hindered by the rain, which had swollen the river to the point that it covered the trail. As a result, the Juneau Mountain Rescue team had to cut its way through dense undergrowth to get to the stranded rafters. The weather at the time prevented the use of a helicopter, and the river was too fast-and had too much debris-to use a rescue boat.

During the night, the four used the remains of their raft and their life jackets to improvise a shelter and huddled together. Throughout the night Griffith provided the four with regular updates. Although his battery had died several times, it retained sufficient power to receive Dewey's communications. Bob Simpson, NL7XL, Glenn Sicks, KL0QC and Brent Fischer, KL1AT, maintained a listening watch on the Juneau repeater system to provide assistance, if needed.

At about 1 AM July 23, a member of SEADOGS, the search-and-rescue dog team, located the four. Although the rescuers were unable to reach the stranded rafters, their mere presence lifted their spirits. They were airlifted off the island around 7 AM by a US Coast Guard helicopter from Sitka. The four rafters suffered only mild hypothermia.

"Ham radio really saved their lives," said incident commander Bruce Bowler. "It was a great help in finding out exactly where they were and what condition they were in. We were able to get updates throughout the night on how they were doing." Griffin noted that had it not been for the radio, "no one would have raised the alarm until 9 PM. We told them not to worry until 9PM." Nick Meacher, N3WWE

FROM REMINISCE "OVER THE BACK FENCE"

Choice is Good. This was a sign in the repair shop of a farm equipment dealer, according to Richard Ward of Baltimore, Maryland:

We do three kinds of jobs - cheap, quick and good. You can have any two: A good, quick job - won't be cheap. A good job, cheap - won't be quick. A cheap job, quick - won't be good.

Be Careful What You Wish. A couple who had been married for 30 years was also celebrating their 60th birthdays. During the celebration, a good fairy appeared and said that because they had been such a loving couple, they would be granted a wish each. "I want to travel around the world" said the wife. The fairy waved her wand and POOF! She had the tickets in her hand. Next it was the husband's turn, and he said, "I'd like to have a woman 30 years younger than I." The fairy waved her wand again, and POOF! The man was 90 years old. *Flo and Carl JOhnson*

She's Catching Up. When I was a little girl, my father, Les Reinhardt used to tell me, "I see you're early, of late. You used to be behind, before. But now you're first, at last. I don't know if he made it up, but I've never heard anyone else say it

De-escalation. When our daughter, Cindy, was about 4, we all went to the department store so my wife could buy some new clothes. We had been in the store only a short while when Cindy came running up, all excited to show me something. She took my hand and led me to the down escalator. She wanted to know what happened when the basement filled up with steps.
Richard Schrieber

ABELL'S ANECDOTES

By Pike Abell W4EPU

I FOUND MYSELF IN A BOOK! The book entitled "A Painted House", John Grisham's latest best seller. It is a story inspired by his own childhood in rural Arkansas. The narrator is a farm boy named Luke Chandler, age 7, who lives in the cotton fields with his parents and grandparents in a little house that has never been painted.

The Chandlers farm was 80 acres that they rented, not owned. The story took place in 1952 during harvest time, or cotton picking season. (Not the slang version of "Cotton Pickin").

The irony of it is that the striking similarity between Luke Chandler and me at that age is downright frightening. We also farmed 80 acres, mostly cotton. The general area where the story took place is only 20 miles from where I grew up on a farm in an identical farming environment. As did Luke Chandler, when I was 7 years old I picked and chopped (hoed) cotton like a grownup. That may seem like child abuse, but in those days on a small farm everyone worked. It was necessary just for survival.

On the other hand, our childhood occurred during much different periods. Luke's being in the 50s, mine in the 20s and 30s. We used mules to pull our plows - they used tractors. We owned our land - they rented. They had electricity - we didn't. Their house was not painted - ours was. In my days the school season was split into two sessions to accommodate the planting/tilling and harvesting seasons with vacations(?) in May-June and September-October. That practice was discontinued some time between our times.

I remember when the cotton wagon was filled with 1500 pounds of cotton, my dad would sometimes take me with him when he took a load of cotton to the gin in town where the cotton and seeds were separated and the cotton baled. From a 1500 pound load of cotton came 1000 pounds of seeds and a 500 pound bale of cotton. They were then sold separately at the market price. They removed the cotton from the wagon with a huge, twelve inch vacuum hose. Much like a very large vacuum cleaner. It was always a big thrill for me to stick my head up in the vacuum hose and make my hair stand straight up. Talk about a hair raising experience.

Those were really hard times, but we were still able to enjoy life in our own ways. Somehow I (we) survived. As "A Painted House" story goes, Luke escaped from farm life when he was still seven years old. His parents gave up farming and moved to Michigan to take a job in an automobile plant. I too escaped, but not until World War II at age 22. To me, the change from farm life to army life was a big improvement. After the war I left the army. I never looked back and never went back to the farm, except to visit. 73s es 88s

"I think we're in trouble. He doesn't even know what a car is!"

JULY MINUTES
By Becky Lee, KF4HTB

After the opening ceremonies of Pledge of Allegiance, moment of silence and introduction of members and guests, Bill W2SDBKC4V played "Happy Birthday" and several other pieces.

The Melbourne Hamfest was discussed. This year they are only doing one day which is Saturday, September 8.

Bud, K4CWG told about Paul K4WPW donating an old radio to the club. The radio sold on the Internet for $450.00. He expressed his appreciation to Paul.

Jose, KC4VIO talked about the Technician Class class that he, Mike KG4DSG and Stephanie, K4MVO will be conducting starting August 13 for the Emergency Response Team from Port St. John. The classes will be held on Monday and Wednesday from 7 to 9 and will run for 5 weeks. The classes will be held at the Titusville police station classroom, and will be open to others who wish to take the course.

Pike, K4EPU announced that he had met with the parties involved in an interference dispute, and that everything had been taken care of. No need to pursue further.

Stephanie K4MVO urged everyone to sign up for ARES and BEARS. You can get your badge at the Melbourne Hamfest. You don't have to be a member of ARRL to join.

Anthony KG4CEB said they need 5 people to handle traffic during emergencies. Contact Anthony for details.

Ralph AE4LE gave an update on the emergency site antennas. He said there are 15 locations in the city, and 14 of the 15 antennas needed are done.

After the refreshment break, Ozzie N4SCY presented a program on Message Handling.

TREASURERS REPORT
By Becky Lee, KF4HTB

Balance forward from 2000	$4324.14
Deposits Year to Date	2942.52
TOTAL INCOME	**$7266.66**
Expenditures	3150.17
BALANCE AS AT 7/31/01	**$4116.49**

CLUB OFFICERS
President: Bud Hughes, K4CWG. 269-0779
V.Pres: Ozzie Osband, N4SCY. 321-LIFTOFF
Sec/Treas: Becky Lee, KF4HTB, 267-9375

ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS
Pat Renninger, KF4LTY. 267-9431
John Renninger, KE4ZPA. 267-9431
Anthony Hurkala, KG4CEB. 268-4240
Sherry Hughes, KU4ZO. 269-0779

REPEATER CUSTODIAN BOARD MEMBERS
Les Griner, K4SJC (146.91) 267-1565
Warren Murray, W4CEL (146.97) 638-5476
Dave McLean, WB4SIG (444.15) 267-6181
Larry Carr, WB9MFJ (Packet-Rose Node) 268-4114

CLUB INFORMATION
Meetings: Monthly on 4th Tuesday at 1900 hrs. at Jaycee Building

Newsletter Editors: KF4HTB Becky Lee
K4EOS Clyde Lee

Nets: **VIP**-Thursdays at 1000 hrs. 146.910
Friendship-Thursdays at 1830 hrs. 146.910
Mosquito-Wednesdays at 1900 hrs. 28.333
Traders-Fridays at 2000 hrs 146.910

TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P. O. BOX 73
TITUSVILLE FL 32781-0073

Where HAS the summer gone?

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Total membership: 220 (149 regular, 52 family, 13 honorary, 6 other)

NEW MEMBERS: W4RBI GARY JOHNSON
WB4ZWI JAY JOHNSON
K4WPW PAUL WYNN

RENEWALS: KE4AGO W. B. REALY
KE4GWQ CLYDE CARTER
KF4IGK GRANT HAHNE
KF4ZOK SUZAN HAHNE
KE4NYM MATHAUS KELLER
AE4OJ DAVID GREENWALD
KE4TQZSANDYGREENWALD
KF4QIP MICHAEL ALBRO
W2SDB BILL EPPLEY
KA4VYN BILL YOUNG

HAMFESTS:

08/18	FORT PIERCE
08/25	TAMPA
09/8	MELBOURNE
09/22	NEW PORT RICHEY
10/6	JACKSONVILLE
10/13	STARKE
10/13	TAMPA
10/13	SUNRISE
10/27	JACKSONVILLE
11/10	PORT ST. LUCIE
11/24	OKEECHOBEE
12/01-2	PALMETTO
12/08	LAKE CITY